

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 02225 102139Z

64

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 STR-01 NSC-05 SS-15

CEA-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 IO-10 /088 W

----- 112912

R 101304Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7465

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 2225

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD EWWT CO CU

SUBJ: COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA: FIRST STEPS

1. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH REPORTERS OVER WEEKEND, DIR OF FOREIGN TRADE INSTITUTE ALBERTO GALEANO IDENTIFIED VARIOUS PRODUCTS SUPPOSEDLY EXPORTABLE TO CUBA. HE SAID GOC DOES NOT HAVE LIST OF CUBAN PRODUCTS COLOMBIA MIGHT IMPORT, ADDING THAT A COMMERCIAL DEL WILL GO TO CUBA SOON TO STUDY THE TRADE POSSIBILITIES. CUBAN DEL ARRIVING BOGOTA MARCH 11, HE SAID. (PRESUMABLY THIS IS DEL LED BY CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ TO ECLA EXPERTS MEETING BUT WHO WILL ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY BE ABLE TO DISCUSS SOME BILATERAL MATTERS.)

2. GALEANO SAID THAT THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONTACTS TO BEGIN RICE EXPORTS TO CUBA. HE ALSO LISTED AUTO PARTS, METALWORKING INDUSTRY PRODUCTS, AND NUMEROUS AGRICULTURAL ITEMS: MEAT, DAIRY AND EGGS, FISH, CEREALS, WHEAT, BARLEY, CORN, FLOUR, FRUITS, VEGETABLES, BEANS AND ANIMAL FEED. AGRICULTURAL LIST SEEMS QUITE UNREALISTIC, NO MORE THAN A SHOPPING LIST, INCLUDING ITEMS PRESUMABLY AVAILABLE IN CUBA (FISH, FRUITS) OR NOT PRODUCED FOR EXPORT BY COLOMBIA (WHEAT, FLOUR). RICE SALE IS PROBABLY MORE REALISTIC. POSSIBLE EXPORT OF RICE TO CUBA WAS MENTIONED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 02225 102139Z

BY PRESIDENT LOPEZ IN A A MAJOR SPEECH LAST MONTH. COLOMBIA IS

PRESENTLY BURDENED WITH A RICE SURPLUS IT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SELL, AND CLEARLY WOULD BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO RESUME EXPORTS TO CUBA WITH ITS FIRST RICE SALE. UNCONFIRMED REPORT FROM BAR-RANQUILLA SAYS 30,000 TONS OF CEMENT VALUED AT US \$1 MILLION WILL BE EXPORTED TO CUBA ON RUSSIAN BOTTOM THIS MONTH, WITH SECOND SHIPMENT OF SAME AMOUNT IN APRIL.

3. FLOTA MERCANTE GRANCOLOMBIANA HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL RENEW TRAFFIC BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES "SOON". COLOMBIAN SAM AIRLINE REPORTEDLY WILL BEGIN TRIAL FLIGHTS TO CUBA THIS WEEK IN CONNECTION WITH ITS APPLICATION FOR THE BOGOTA-HAVANA ROUTE (BOGOTA 1956).

4. PUTTING BEST FACE ON ADVANTAGES TO COLOMBIA, GALEANO SAW POSSIBILITIES OF TECHNOLOGICAL INTERCHANGE WITH CUBA (IN UNSPECIFIED AREAS). CUBA WILL OCCUPY A "STRATEGIC POINT" IN COLOMBIA'S NEW COMMERCIAL POLICY TOWARD THE CARIBBEAN (MERELY TO CONCENTRATE MORE ON CARIBBEAN MARKET), HE SAID.

5. COMMENT: WHILE RENEWAL OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA BASICALLY A POLITICAL DECISION, AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS ARE DIFFICULT TO DISCOVER, WE WOULD NOT WANT TO OVERSTRESS THE POINT. DECISION WAS NEVER ADVERTISED AS HAVING AN ECONOMIC BASIS AND THERE ARE NO GREAT EXPECTATIONS IN THIS REGARD. ANY ECONOMIC BENEFITS THAT DO ACCRUE WILL BE MORE LIKE ICING ON THE CAKE. NOT ONLY ARE THE TWO ECONOMIES COMPETITIVE IN MANY WAYS BUT COLOMBIA WILL HAVE TO COMPETE WITH GROWING NUMBER OF OTHER LATAM COUNTRIES ALSO RENEWING THEIR ACCESS TO CUBA'S LIMITED MARKET. DISTURBING ELEMENT ON ECONOMIC FRONT IS POTENTIAL LEGISLATIVE COMPLICATION IF COLOMBIA SHIPPING LINE STARTS SAILING TO CUBA.
VAKY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, EAST WEST TRADE, EXPORT DATA, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BOGOTA02225
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750084-0061
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750367/aaaacity.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA: FIRST STEPS
TAGS: ETRD, EWWT, CO, CU, (GALEANO, ALBERTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006